



**Statement by Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to the Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Milan, 1 – 12 December, 2004**

*Mr Chairman,*

I am pleased to have the opportunity to present a brief statement to this important session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, as the Executive Secretary of a sister Rio Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity. Ongoing meetings of Convention bodies in Montreal prevent me from being present in Milan in person, and I am grateful to the Secretariat for facilitating distribution of this statement.

*Mr Chairman,*

Since its third meeting in 1996, the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity have consistently called for closer collaboration with this Convention, as well as the Convention to Combat Desertification. Underlying this call are concerns about the impacts of climate change on biodiversity as well as a strong interest in ensuring that activities undertaken to mitigate and adapt to climate change are consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

In particular, at a number of Meetings, the CBD Conference of the Parties have urged this body to take action to reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change on biological diversity of coral reefs and their associated socio-economic effects, and to ensure that activities under this Convention, including carbon sequestration activities in forests, are consistent with and supportive of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Additionally, at its last meeting, the Conference of the Parties invited this Convention to address the issue of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species, when it considers measures for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

These various concerns led the Conference of the Parties, at its fifth meeting, to request the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technological and Technical advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD to prepare scientific advice in order to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. The Conference of the Parties called for this work to be carried out in collaboration with the appropriate bodies of the UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The result of this work was a report of the ad hoc technical expert group on biodiversity and climate change which was considered by SBSTTA at its recent meeting in Montreal last month. SBSTTA welcomed the Report and commended it to the Conference of the parties as scientific advice and a basis for future work. SBSTTA also requested that its chair and I transmit the report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice of this body, for its consideration in its work.<sup>1</sup>

I am grateful to the SBSTA of this Convention for the attention it has given to the process of preparing this Report at several of its earlier sessions, and to its previous and present Chairs, as well as the Secretariat, for facilitating this.

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<sup>1</sup> Copies of the report, *Interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change: advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol*, are available at the documentation desk.

I am very pleased to observe that SBSTA of this Convention at its nineteenth session, earlier this week, also welcomed the Report, and that it has encouraged Parties to this Convention to make use of it as a useful source of information for their national purposes.

I believe that the fact that the scientific subsidiary bodies of our two conventions have welcomed this report, and called for its use by parties to both conventions, is an important step forwards in ensuring a consistent approach to issues of common concern.

There were a number of points that CBD SBSTTA noted, on the basis of the Report, which I would like to bring to your attention:

- Firstly, there are opportunities to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in ways that are mutually beneficial and synergistic, and that contribute simultaneously to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as other international agreements, all within broader national development objectives;
- Secondly, the ecosystem approach provides a framework for the integrated management of land, water and living resources and that its application can facilitate the formulation of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects that also contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, thereby contributing to the implementation of the "WEHAB" initiative and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- Thirdly, the primary motivation for cooperation is to promote synergies at the national and local levels, where conventions are implemented. Efforts to promote synergies should be designed in accordance with national circumstances and priorities with a view to achieving sustainable development.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will further examine these issues at its Seventh Meeting in Kuala Lumpur early next year.

*Mr Chairman,*

I am pleased to note the steps taken at this meeting towards closer collaboration between our Conventions and the Convention to Combat Desertification. These steps are fully in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development which encouraged the three Rio Conventions to continue exploring and enhancing synergies, as well as with calls from our own Conferences of the Parties for closer collaboration.

In this respect, I can assure you that the Secretariat of the CBD will continue to work constructively with the Secretariats of the UNFCCC and UNCCD, in the Joint Liaison Group and through other appropriate means, to further enhance cooperation, in line with wishes of our respective Conferences of the Parties.

*Thank you.*